

An Appeal for Observations of the Moon

by

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In the past few years, particularly the last year and a half, there have been a number of reports of lunar transient phenomena. Various anomalies have been observed, such as white or gray obscurations, blue or violet haze and reddish spots or glows. Most have been observed against the lighted portions of the moon, but some have been seen on the dark side. Unequivocal and permanent records of some of these phenomena were made by the Russian astronomer, N. A. Kozyrev, who obtained spectra of phenomena occurring in the craters Alphonsus and Aristarchus. Z. Kopal of Manchester, England, also obtained photographs in the red and green regions of the spectrum by the use of filters, in which the brightness of extended regions of the moon appeared to be significantly enhanced in the red photographs for short periods of time, on the order of minutes or an hour.

The importance and scientific significance of the knowledge of the nature of these temporary phenomena need hardly be emphasized. Hence, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration has provided funds for the development and manufacture, by Trident Engineers Associates, of a device called Moon-blink, a conception of Dr. James Edson of NASA Headquarters. It utilizes the blink technique used for detecting motions of celestial bodies. The color blink is obtained by a rotating filter wheel composed half of red and the other half of blue filters. The light after passing through the filters falls on the surface of an image

FACILITY FORM 608
N66-83344
(ACCESSION NUMBER)
5
(PAGES)
TMX 56455
(NASA CR OR TMX OR AD NUMBER)

(THRU)
None
(CODE)
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Available to NASA Office and
NASA Office
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DATA SHEET RECORD

Time of observation (standard time):

Name, and location within or around, of formation:

Selenographic position (astronomical):

Hour Angle (or Right Ascension) and Declination of moon:

Altitude of Moon:

Phase of Moon:

Color--variations:

Shape--variations:

Estimation of brightness of phenomenon--variations:

Duration:

Location of observer:

Name of observer:

Experience in observing:

Seeing conditions--poor, fair, good, very good, excellent:

Transparency (faintest magnitude with eye):

Wind conditions:

Telescope aperture and kind and power:

Others called:

Remarks: and sketch